

From: Morning Consult
To: james_cason@ios.doi.gov; [The Morning Consult](#)
Subject: Morning Consult Washington: Trump to Visit Storm-Ravaged Texas on Tuesday
Date: Monday, August 28, 2017 9:02:22 AM



By [Eli Yokley](#)

Top Stories

- President Donald Trump plans to visit Texas on Tuesday. Federal agencies are helping respond to severe flooding in the Galveston-Corpus Christi-Houston region, which is bracing for more rain. ([Politico](#))
- When asked about a U.N. panel's critique of Trump's response to racial violence in Charlottesville, Va., Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said the president "speaks for himself." Tillerson's remarks make him the latest administration official to distance himself from Trump on the issue. ([CNN](#))
- While running for president in late 2015 and early 2016, Trump's company

pursued a plan to develop a Trump Tower in Moscow. The new revelation suggests additional contacts between Trump's associates and Russia-connected individuals during his presidential campaign. ([The Washington Post](#))

- House Speaker Paul Ryan "does not agree with the decision" made by Trump to pardon former Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio, a spokesman for the Wisconsin Republican said. Arizona's GOP senators - Jeff Flake and John McCain - also criticized the president's decision. ([The Wall Street Journal](#))

Chart Review

[Devastating flooding after Harvey will get worse before it gets better](#)
The Washington Post

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

MONDAY

Brookings Institution event on criminal justice reform 10 a.m.
Cato Institute on the politics of 'Game of Thrones' 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

National Press Club lunch event with new NAACP President
Derrick Johnson 12:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

AEI event on retirement income 10 a.m.

Heritage Foundation event on Iran 12 p.m.

THURSDAY

Brookings Institution event on global financial ecosystem 10 a.m.

National Press Club book event with Sheryl Attkisson 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

No events scheduled

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General

[**In Houston, Anxiety and Frantic Rescues as Floodwaters Rise**](#)

Julie Turkewitz et al, The New York Times

What felt like an apocalyptic onslaught of pounding rains and rapidly rising floodwaters brought the nation's fourth-largest city to its knees on Sunday, as highways and residential streets turned to rivers, waist-high waters choked off access to homes and hospitals, and officials begged boat owners to pitch in with an enormous and frantic rescue operation. It was a scene that evoked Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana in 2005, with worried residents punching holes in roofs in anticipation of the water rising even higher and people being rescued by helicopters from soggy rooftops.

Flood insurance splits GOP, spurs bipartisan dealmaking as deadline looms

Zachary Warmingrod, Politico

Coastal state Republicans are bucking members of their own party and teaming up with Democrats as lawmakers struggle to salvage an agreement to keep the National Flood Insurance Program alive. Dozens of Republicans from New York to Mississippi have fought proposals by the House Financial Services Committee that they say would make flood insurance unaffordable.

Remains of 10 Sailors Who Died in Navy Collision Are Found

Richard C. Paddock, The New York Times

The remains of all 10 United States Navy sailors who died aboard the destroyer John S. McCain in a collision near Singapore a week ago have been recovered, the Navy announced on Monday. Ships and aircraft from five nations had launched a huge search at sea after the McCain's pre-dawn collision with an oil tanker east of Singapore on Aug. 21.

Presidential

Trump to visit Texas on Tuesday

Louis Nelson and David Cohen, Politico

President Donald Trump will visit hurricane-ravaged Texas on Tuesday, the White House announced Sunday afternoon. "We are coordinating logistics with state and local officials, and once details are finalized, we will let you know," press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said.

Tillerson: Trump 'speaks for himself'

Eli Watkins, CNN

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Sunday that President Donald Trump "speaks for himself" when asked whether the President's response to the violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, raised questions about Trump's values. The brief remark from the top Cabinet official appeared to be the latest subtle sign of a gap between Tillerson, a former globe-trotting oil executive, and the freewheeling President, who ran a campaign in large part against how the US interacts with pillars of the international community.

Trump's business sought deal on a Trump Tower in Moscow while he ran for president

Carol D. Leonnig et al., The Washington Post

While Donald Trump was running for president in late 2015 and early 2016, his company was pursuing a plan to develop a massive Trump Tower in Moscow, according to several people familiar with the proposal and new records reviewed by Trump Organization lawyers. As part of the discussions, a Russian-born real estate developer urged Trump to come to Moscow to tout the proposal and suggested that he could get President Vladimir Putin to say "great things" about Trump, according to several people who have been briefed on his correspondence.

Trump's Pivot to Taxes Is Fraught With 'Pitfalls Everywhere'

Sahil Kapur, Bloomberg

President Donald Trump is planning to kick off one of the most important sales pitches of his presidency this week - getting Americans fired up about rewriting the U.S. tax code. But there's no plan to sell.

Trump's Legal U-Turns May Test Supreme Court's Patience

Adam Liptak, The New York Times

The Trump administration may be headed for trouble in the Supreme Court. It has twice switched sides in important Supreme Court cases, on workers' rights and voting rolls, abandoning the positions of the previous administration for ones favored by conservatives.

Team Trump turns to Rove playbook to juice 2018 turnout

Alex Isenstadt, Politico

Donald Trump's White House may take a page from the Karl Rove playbook.

The administration has been in talks to put conservative initiatives on the ballot in 2018 midterm battleground states in hopes of energizing base voters dispirited by the performance of Republican-controlled Washington.

Senate

[GOP eager for potential Kid Rock Senate bid](#)

Ben Kamisar, The Hill

Kid Rock's flirtation with a Senate bid has Republicans thinking he could be the party's best shot to win next year's race against Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.). The rock star - real name Robert Ritchie - would likely dominate the primary field if he entered the race and comes within striking distance of the Democratic incumbent in recent polling.

[Heller walks tightrope on ObamaCare repeal](#)

Peter Sullivan, The Hill

Sen. Dean Heller is trying to walk a fine line on ObamaCare ahead of his tough reelection race next year. The Nevada Republican, considered the most vulnerable GOP senator in 2018, is under attack from both the right and the left, and is trying to stake out a middle ground.

House

[House Speaker Paul Ryan Criticizes Donald Trump's Pardon for Joe Arpaio](#)

Peter Nicholas, The Wall Street Journal

House Speaker Paul Ryan on Saturday criticized President Donald Trump for pardoning a former Arizona sheriff, Joe Arpaio, becoming the highest-ranking Republican to object to the move. "The speaker does not agree with the decision," said Ryan spokesman Doug Andres.

[Democrats exploit GOP ethics woes in battle for the House](#)

Elena Schneider and Austin Wright, Politico

Duncan Hunter's Southern California district isn't normally a serious target for Democrats. But a criminal investigation into allegations of campaign funds for

personal use - including flying his pet rabbit across the country - isn't exactly normal either.

States

[Texas Governor, Mayor Split Over Whether Houston Needed Evacuations](#)

Christopher M. Matthews, The Wall Street Journal

A split between Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner over whether the metropolis should have been evacuated is raising questions about officials' response to damaging floodwaters as a catastrophe continues to engulf the region. Mr. Turner, a Democrat, and other local officials urged residents to stay in their homes as Hurricane Harvey, which has since downgraded to a tropical storm, approached Houston on Friday.

[Kasich: I'm not running in 2020 with Hickenlooper](#)

Louis Nelson, Politico

Ohio Gov. John Kasich said Sunday that he and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper will not form a bipartisan ticket for a 2020 presidential bid, shooting down rumors that the pair had been considering such a move.

"Chuck, look, Kasich/Hickenlooper. You couldn't-first of all, you couldn't pronounce it. And secondly, you couldn't fit it on a bumper sticker," the Ohio governor, a Republican who ran for the GOP nomination in 2016 and has been a vocal critic of President Donald Trump's, said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

[McAuliffe defends flip-flop on Confederate statues](#)

Paige Winfield Cunningham, The Washington Post

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) said there's now enough controversy around statues of Confederate leaders that they should be removed - even though he'd once backed keeping them around. Jake Tapper, host of CNN's "State of the Union," asked McAuliffe to explain why he's now supporting local governments that want to remove statues of Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis and others in the wake of the violence at a white-nationalist rally earlier this month in Charlottesville.

[No big announcement at Adam Laxalt's Basque Fry, but supporters](#)

[talk as if he's running for governor](#)

Michelle Rindels and Luz Gray, The Nevada Independent

Republican Attorney General Adam Laxalt didn't make any big announcements at his record-setting 3rd Annual Basque Fry fundraiser, but you might not know it from how much the featured speakers at his barbecue gushed about his bright future. A slate of political figures taking the stage at the Corley Ranch in Gardnerville hinted at the worst-kept secret in Nevada politics - that the 38-year-old Laxalt plans to jump in the governor's race - and some spoke as if the deed was already done.

[Can we 'return to civility'? Conservative donor tries in chat with controversial Missouri Democrat](#)

Ashley Jost, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

National conservative megadonor Foster Friess grabbed coffee with controversial Missouri state Sen. Maria Chappelle-Nadal on Sunday in an effort to "return to civility." They became fast friends in the process.

Advocacy

[Lewandowski pressed Trump on aid to coal industry](#)

Eric Wolff et al., Politico

An Ohio electric utility and one of the country's top coal companies had some well-placed help when pressing President Donald Trump for emergency federal assistance for the coal industry - his former campaign manager Corey Lewandowski. The companies wanted Trump to prevent utilities from closing economically ailing coal-fired power plants, using authorities normally designed to protect the U.S. electricity supply during emergencies.

[In Massachusetts, lobbyists outnumber lawmakers seven-to-one](#)

Steve LeBlanc, The Associated Press

In the state's fast-changing business climate, one Massachusetts industry continues to thrive using a tried-and-true business model: Chasing the hearts and minds of state lawmakers and other top politicians. Political lobbying is not only alive and well on Beacon Hill, it has seen something of a growth spurt over the past decade - at least measured by the number of lobbyists actively

doing business in Massachusetts.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

'We Are Living Through a Battle for the Soul of This Nation'

Joe Biden, The Atlantic

In January of 2009, I stood waiting in Wilmington, Delaware, for a train carrying the first African American elected president of the United States. I was there to join him as vice president on the way to a historic Inauguration.

The Arpaio Pardon

The Editorial Board, The Wall Street Journal

Candidate Donald Trump promised to abide by the rule of law that took a beating under the Obama Administration, and that theme may have helped him win the election. President Trump's pardon late Friday of deposed Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio undermines that promise and further politicizes the law.

Fascism, American Style

Paul Krugman, The New York Times

As sheriff of Maricopa County, Ariz., Joe Arpaio engaged in blatant racial discrimination. His officers systematically targeted Latinos, often arresting them on spurious charges and at least sometimes beating them up when they questioned those charges.

Trump's plan to put fragile national monuments in danger

Editorial Board, The Washington Post

The minute President Trump entered the Oval Office, President Barack Obama's environmental legacy was in danger. The clean air and water regulations and the land protections he established, all without Congress's assent, were as fragile as some of the precious habitat they were meant to protect.

Take down the Jefferson Davis Monument

Editorial Board, Richmond Times-Dispatch

The fate of the Confederate statuary along Monument Avenue raises a host of

questions. Some are reasonable - and some are not. Some are hard - and some are easy.

Research Reports and Polling

[U.S. Superintendents Excited About Their District's Future](#)

Tim Hodes, Gallup

K-12 students returning to class this fall are being welcomed back by leaders who are optimistic about the future of their school district. Eighty-five percent of U.S. public school district superintendents agree or strongly agree that they are excited about their district's future.



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